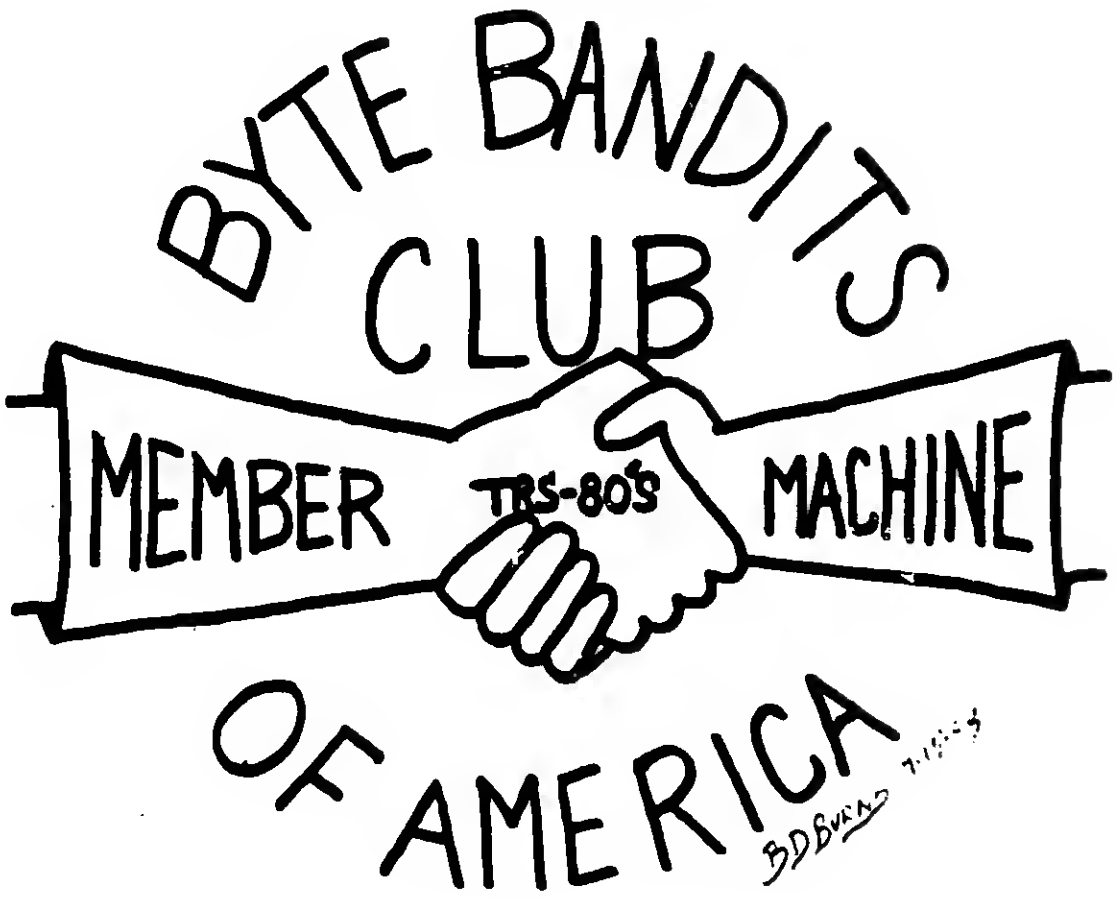

BYTE BANDITS
CLUB
MEMBER
TRS-80'S
MACHINE
OF AMERICA

BYTE BANDITS
OF AMERICA

NOVEMBER 1987

PROJECT X-MAS:

We received about 30 Model I computer systems from a local high school. These units were to be out X-MAS Project for 1987. They still are. The South Bay User Group (SBUG) added their services in the repairing of the Printers, Disk Drives, and CPU Units. Together we have rebuilt most of the Computer Systems. "Telephone Pioneers" has assisted us in finding homes for these machines. Sam C. BROWN Ent. found a High School locally that required a complete computer class room ensemble. So -- we donated all but a few units to them. Now we need another X-MAS Project. The machines, books, etc. are all back on-line and our job is completed. Thank you to all who donated time and efforts to this Quickened Project. The organizations that received the donated machines will require Club support. If you have time to assist them , please volunteer your talents.

CLUB DUES:

The Club year ends on December 31. That means everyone that wishes to remain in the Club is required to renew their membership. The annual dues is $25.00; for those who paid recently as well as those who were members for the entire year. Those who do not require the Club Services are requested not to renew. We do not enjoy paper work and records. We need your talents to assist those who need help. If you feel that the Club's assistance this last year was worthy of your renewing, please join with us for another year. Club Renewal Forms will be available during December. You are the Club's main resource. HELP US to HELP OTHERS!

80 MICRO:

The only magazine that serviced the TRS-DOS WORLD, "80 MICRO" will end its career in December, 1987. The magazine will continue, but it will be servicing the new MS-DOS machines only. If your subscription is due for renewal, take time to consider whether your Computer needs will be TRS-DOS or MS-DOS oriented. I know of NO OTHER magazine that covers Models I-II-III-IV-IVP Computers. Are there any others? The Club will maintain a Subscription so that Advertising,MS-DOS, and Tandy related information can be kept current.

CLUB SERVICE & REPAIRS:

The Club is serviced by B. THOMPSON. He is the person to up-grade your Computers, repair your Disk Drives, replace broken keys, etc. Should you require his services: Phone 408/867-7455. He is very good and not very expensive. His services are NOT free! If you require repair services, don't go to the Radio Shack - Tandy stores. They are very expensive, restrictive in what they can repair, and the Warranty isn't worth the stress!

TRS-DOS CONVERSION:

To copy a program of a file from TRS-DOS 6.1 to TRS-DOS 1.3, first: Format a disk using TRS-DOS 6.1 as Single Density 35 tracks. COPY, or SAVE, to the Disk from TRS-DOS 6.1. TRS-DOS 1.3 can read the disk with its CONVERT Utility.

POKE 16422,88:

This Poke on the Model I will change L-Print to Print when exchanged in your Basic Program. To use it correctly, use Poke 16422,88 and Poke 16423,4 in place of Poke 16423,141 and Poke 16423,5 for the L-Print. This is a handy way to list Programs on the Screen and save your paper.

UPDATE MS-DOS FILES:

To update your backup files, try using this command: A> for %P in (*.*) Do IF EXIST B:%P COPY %P B: Use (*.DAT) to BACKUP Data Files.

TRS-80 SERVICES
MODEL I COMPUTERS

Repairs:

Computers & Disk Drives	B. THOMPSON	408/867-7455
Tape Drives (Exactron)	A & J MICRO DRIVE	408/281-0100
Exatron Tapes (New)	EXATRON	408/732-9282
Programs (Tape or Disk)	see "Clubs"	

Computer Clubs

Byte Bandits of America 408/379-2774	TRS-80 Club
South Bay Users Group (SBUG) 408/867-7455	TRS-80 Club

Note:

This Computer is NO longer serviced by Radio Shack - Tandy Corp. Programs - Parts - Accessories must be obtained thru your Computer Clubs.

Jerry Schneider

Another Angle: Do Computer Users Have Rights?

Caveat emptor! has become the watchword of the computer marketplace. For years, computer product manufacturers have engaged in business practices that, although commonplace in our industry, are illegal in most others.

Picturing a full computer system in an ad when the price mentioned includes only the CPU is deceptive and misleading. False claims about software ease of use and functionality at the front end of a sale are exacerbated by inadequate customer warranty protection at the back. There is frequent interference with the consumer's right to use software freely after purchase. Even where legislation exists to protect consumers, the microcomputer industry has conspired to exempt itself from responsibility through creative lawyering, insisting that software is licensed, not sold.

It's time the industry responded to the continual flow of input from users concerning their needs and requirements. The Capital PC User Group has long espoused a "Users' Bill of Rights" that outlines consumers' most basic needs. Although oriented primarily toward computer software sales, many of its tenets apply equally to hardware purchases. They can be summarized as follows:

- Users have the right to expect products to perform as advertised.
- A product should perform the basic functions common to its genre at a level of quality consistent with industry standards.
- Users have the right to make backup copies of software to ensure uninterrupted use of the program should the original copy fail.
- Manufacturers have an obligation to inform users of known errors, bug fixes, and temporary work-arounds and to provide periodic updates to correct errors.
- Users have the right to integrate software into their system environments without undue constraint by copy protection, authorization requirements, or extraneous functions added to the software.

The Users' Bill of Rights is not a radical statement of outrageous demands, but simply a reflection of what most people consider to be good, commonsense business practices. It has been endorsed by computer publications, end-user organizations, and consumer groups but virtually ignored by the software publishing community.

If the industry wants to show its concern for customers, it should support the concepts outlined in the Users' Bill of Rights. Unless the industry takes action to redress these abuses, enactment of state or federal legislation to protect the user seems inevitable. ●

Jerry Schneider is president of the Capital PC User Group.

Have a different perspective on computing? Send your opinions to Another Angle, PC World, *501 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or electronically to MCI Mail PCWORLD/ 179-3813, CompuServe 74055,412, or The Source STE908.*

C:> DOS
DO'S AND DON'TS

This month's and the next two months DOS Do's and Don'ts column will focus on batch files. Batch files are one of the most useful and powerful features in DOS, and yet they are not generously used by the majority of PC users. Here's a checklist of things you should know about batch files.

- What is a batch file?
- What motives are there to use one?
- How do you create and name one?
- How do you execute a batch file?
- What are the nine special batch file commands?
- How do replaceable parameters work?
- How do you chain one batch file to another?
- What are some of the fancier uses of batch files?
- What is AUTOEXEC.BAT and how is it used?

The basic idea of a batch file is conceptually simple. Inside a batch file are a sequence of DOS commands. Much like a script, DOS reads each command, one-by-one and executes each command in turn. Thus, batch files are a method for automating certain tasks which you do often. If you have a hard disk system it may be useful to create a separate directory for your favorite batch files. If you don't have a hard disk you may want to put them on a separate diskette.

The .BAT extension name is reserved by DOS to indicate a batch file. For example, the file DIRS.BAT contains . . .

```
C:
DIR \ BUDGET \ FY87
DIR \ BUDGET \ FY88
```

and would cause DOS to select the C drive (C:) and then list the directories of the \ BUDGET \ FY87 and \ BUDGET FY88 directories.

You use batch files to increase convenience, provide a safeguard against operator errors, make the PC more useful to the less technical user, and to improve efficiency.

To create a batch file, use a text editor or your favorite word processing program. If you use a word processing program, be careful to use the "unformatted text" mode or "non-document" mode, so that the file is strictly text (also called an ASCII file).

To start a batch file enter the file name with or without the extension (.BAT) at the DOS prompt.

Let's examine another batch file called START123.BAT, which contains . . .

```
C:
CD \ LOTUS \ PROG
123
CD \
```

and is used to select the program 123.EXE from the hard disk directory \ LOTUS \ PROG. The CD or CHDIR DOS command is used to change the directory before the 123.EXE program is executed and to change it back to the root directory by using the CD command after the 123.EXE program is quit.

More powerful batch files can be created by using replaceable parameters and the nine special DOS commands which exist primarily for batch file processing. These nine DOS commands include:

1) CALL	4) FOR	7) PAUSE
2) ECHO	5) GOTO	8) REM
3) EXIT	6) IF	9) SHIFT

Replaceable parameters allow you to substitute into the batch file itself. Replaceable parameters use the special symbol %1, %2, %3, %4 and so on up to %9. For example, below is the batch file called MYCOPY.BAT. It could be executed by entering MYCOPY DTA DAT which would cause DTA to be substituted wherever %1 appears and DAT to be substituted wherever %2 appears in the contents of the batch file MYCOPY. Further, entering MYCOPY EXE COM would cause all .EXE and .COM files to be copied.

```
COPY *.%1 A:
COPY *.%2 A:
CLS DIR A:*.%1 /P
DIR A:*.%2 /P
```

Next time the nine batch processing DOS Commands will be eggsplained in greater detail. Good DOSing until then.

This column is provided by Individual Software, the makers of Professor DOS, a popular DOS tutorial program.

TH WED..MEETING..1987

JAN. DISK OPERATING SYSTEM-SYSTEMS

FEB. PROGRAMS TRANSFERING

MAR ELECTRICAL PROTECTION 110v

APL MODEM PROTICOLS

MAY UPGRADING YOUR COMPUTER

JUN COMPUTER PREVENTIVE MAINT.

JUL PRINTERS-PROBLEMS ECT.

AUG BASIC PROGRAMING

SEP COMPUTER LANGUAGES

OCT COMPUTER ACCESSORIES ECT.

NOV CLUB REVIEW 1987

DEC NEW PRODUCTS- REVIEW

THIS MEETING IS A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT OF THAT MONTH.... COME AND HELP THE DISCUSSION WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OR YOUR PROBLEMS.....

MEETINGS:

2ND SAT.....1PM WORKSHOP

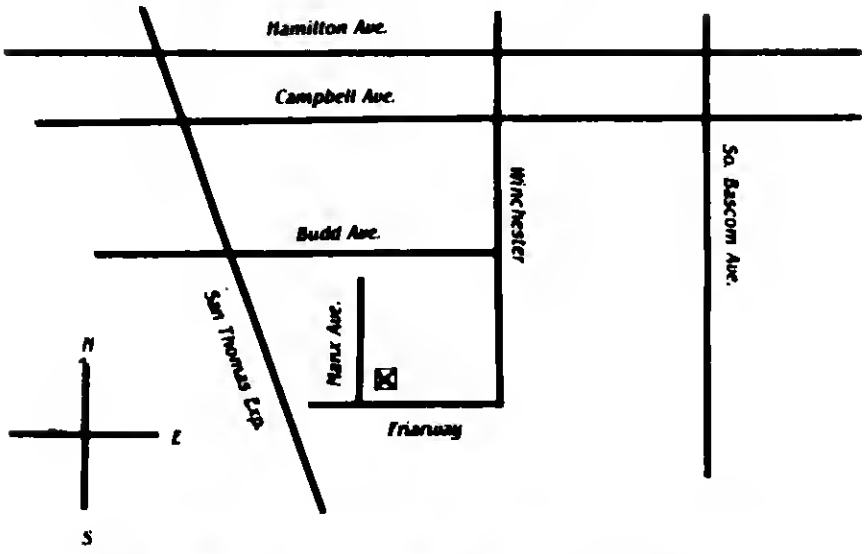
4TH WED.....7PM LECTURE

NOTES:

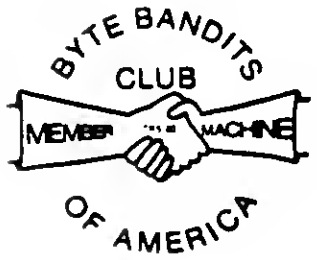
1. MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED
2. GUESTS..BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

INFORMATION...CALL 408-379-2774

B.B.S.....CALL 408-374-3974



This club has been established to provide its members total computer knowledge using "hands-on" application during the meetings. For better understanding of existing hardware and software in an informal—social club atmosphere.

We hope to provide members close contact between novice and amateur home computer entusiasts; young and old, male and female, school, home, business and hobbiest.

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